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## Final National Conference on Resource Efficient and Cleaner Production (RECP) for Manufacturing Sector in Georgia

### Inside this Issue

- 1** Final National Conference on Resource Efficient and Cleaner Production (RECP) for Manufacturing Sector in Georgia;
- 2** Roundtable on Financing Resource Efficient and Cleaner Production Investments in Small and Medium Sized Enterprises in Georgia and the EaP countries;
- 3** Training in measurement equipment for resource efficient and cleaner production;
- 4** On-line Presentation and Training of the Resource Efficient and Cleaner Production Pocket Guides for Dairy & Chemicals Manufacturing Sectors



More than 70 participants gathered at the National Conference on Resource Efficient and Cleaner Production (RECP) in Georgia on 27 April, 2017 agreed that the progress in promoting resource efficient and environmentally friendly production practices in Georgian small and

medium-sized industrial enterprises, implemented as part of the EU-funded project Greening Economies in the European Union's Eastern Neighbourhood (EaP GREEN), has been impressive.

Representatives of central and local government, RECP Clubs member companies and other enterprises, business associations, non-governmental sector and experts participated in the conference. The Minister of Environment & Natural Resources Protection of Georgia, Mr.G.Agulashvili and Deputy Minister of Economy & Sustainable Development, Ms.I.Kavtaradze participated in the work of the conference.

The review of feasible and low-cost RECP measures identified in 50 small and medium sized enterprises showed significant achievable environmental and economic benefits.

*The EU funded EaP GREEN project showed concrete results in enhancing the competitiveness of Georgian enterprises, and its contribution to improve cooperation between the government and private sector in identifying joint solutions to reduce the negative impact of production on the environment"*

*Mr. Gigla Agulashvili, Minister of Environment and Natural Resources Protection*

### KEY PROJECT IMPACTS

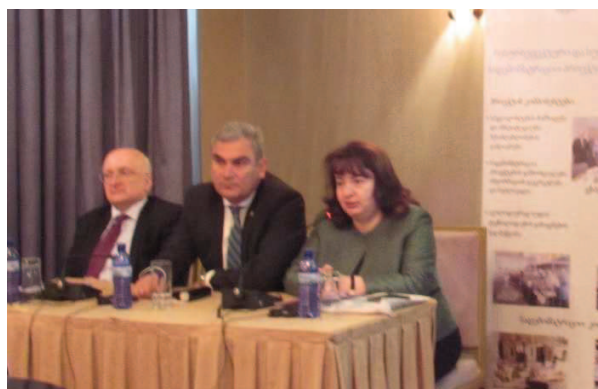
**50 SMEs from different regions were involved in the project in 2014-2016;**

#### **Environmental benefits:**

- ❖ annual energy saving – 25 000 MWh
- ❖ annual water saving - 136 000 m<sup>3</sup>
- ❖ materials saving - 2 000 t
- ❖ emissions reduction – 1000 t CO<sub>2eq</sub>
- ❖ waste water reduction - 5 680 m<sup>3</sup>
- ❖ solid waste reduction - 7 t

#### **Economic benefits:**

- more than 1 mln. EUR/y saving after implementing only the first set of low cost RECP measures;
- Average payback period < 2 years.



*"Capacity built through the RECP project significantly contributed to awareness about the importance of implementing green economy principles in Georgia, which are high in the government's agenda."*

*Ms. Irma Kavtaradze, Deputy Minister of Economy and Sustainable Development of Georgia*

The conference participants also agreed that the results achieved so far are the very first steps and more efforts are needed to build on successful initiatives, such as RECP replication through the establishment of RECP Center, which will continue providing services to Georgian companies.

The participants also acknowledged that RECP Clubs in Rustavi and Kaspi, actively supported by the Mayor's Offices, can now share their lessons learnt and thus the interest in RECP Clubs as an approach to bring resource saving practices to a larger number of enterprises is growing. To meet this demand, a tested and adopted to local needs RECP resource package was offered to the Conference participants for consultation, use and further dissemination.

### Roundtable on Financing Resource Efficient & Cleaner Production Investments in Small and Medium Sized Enterprises in Georgia and the EaP countries

The Roundtable was organized in Tbilisi, on April 26, 2017 as a part of the EU-funded project **Greening Economies in the European Union's Eastern Neighborhood (EaP GREEN)**, addressed possible ways to bridge the gap between companies and financial institutions for financing and implementing RECP activities including adaptation and adoption of innovative RECP technologies in Georgia and other EaP Countries.

The Roundtable brought together the key stakeholders engaged in promoting the green economic development in the EaP region including representatives of the demonstration companies participating in the UNIDO project, international and local financial institutions, representatives of the ministries of economy and environment, project Steering Committee members, business associations, NGOs and academia, National Coordinators of the UNIDO RECP Demonstration Project and RECP experts from six beneficiary countries, representatives of UNIDO, and international donor organizations.

The Roundtable participants were welcomed by the representatives of the key ministries of Georgia- Ministry of Environment Protection and Natural Resources and Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development, Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development and United Nations Industrial Development Program.

In the course of the Roundtable representatives of the UNIDO-led EaP GREEN Demonstration Project presented the economic benefits and financial returns of the RECP pilot projects, discussed the opportunities for and barriers to financing RECP projects in Georgia, and identified ways to enhance RECP financing in Georgian SMEs. The event participants had opportunity to share experience and knowledge among the EU Eastern Neighborhood Countries about the barriers and opportunities for enhancing the green investments financing in the region.



***EU-funded EaP GREEN Project assists the governments of Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine to identify efficient policy solutions and practical steps towards a greener and more sustainable economy.***

***The project is jointly implemented by four international organizations - OECD, UNECE, UNEP and UNIDO.***

***UNIDO's RECP project in Georgia started in 2014. Significant results have been achieved in promoting resource efficient and environmentally friendly production practices in Georgian enterprises:***

- ❖ ***18 national experts were trained in RECP methodology and are capable to provide RECP advice to enterprises;***
- ❖ ***RECP assessments conducted in 18 SMEs revealed a significant potential for increasing resource efficiency, improving environmental performance and enhancing workers' safety in the enterprises.***
- ❖ ***RECP clubs involving 35 SMEs were established in Georgian regions. Club member SMEs were trained in RECP methodology and can apply the knowledge in their companies. Methodology for organization of RECP clubs was elaborated in Georgian and published.***
- ❖ ***Manuals, methodological and various promotional materials including the Second edition of National RECP Primer were published in 2017.***



### Training in Measurement Equipment

On March 22-23, 2017 UNIDO Resource Efficient and Cleaner Production Demonstration Project in Georgia organized a training for Georgian experts and companies involved in the RECP project on using measurement equipment for resource efficient and cleaner production assessments in manufacturing processes. The training was conducted by Mr. Johannes Fresner, International RECP Expert.

The training sessions included both in-class theoretical training and practical work in measurement approaches and equipment. The theoretical training covered: electrical measurement equipment, combustion analyzer, manometers, thermometers, water flow meters, speed measurements, leak detectors and lux meters. The theoretical training was followed by the practical training which included site visits. The training participants visited several companies, in particular, Individual Entrepreneur A. Jojishvili engaged in production of household plastic items, "New Delta" -Wire annealing factory and boiler house at the Georgian Technical University. During the site visits the training participants were given possibility to test the various equipment and learn their application at work.



### Training in Pocket Guides on Resource Efficient and Cleaner Production in Dairy and Construction Materials Sectors



Training in Resource Efficiency and Cleaner Production Pocket Guides for dairy, chemicals and construction materials manufacturing sectors was organized on 24<sup>th</sup> March, 2017 at the Georgian Technical University (GTU). The training was conducted by Mr. Johannes Fresner, international RECP expert. Students and professors of the Department of Environmental Engineering and Ecology and RECP national experts participated in the training.

National Project Coordinator in Georgia Mr. Malkhaz Adeishvili presented UNIDO Resource Efficient and Cleaner Production Demonstration Project. The international expert introduced to the audience three Pocket Guides prepared under the EaP GREEN Program addressing RECP approaches and practices

in dairy, chemicals and construction materials manufacturing processes. The Pocket Guides have been prepared by international experts in English. As soon as the Guides are translated into Georgian and published they will be available for business companies, RECP experts and broader group of people interested in resource efficient and cleaner production.

## Approbation of Pocket Guides for Milk Processing and Chemical Industry Specialists

Online training on Recourse Efficiency and Cleaner Production Pocket Guides for Dairy & Chemicals Manufacturing Sectors took place at the Georgian Technical University on July 4, 2017. The webinar was organized by the Resource Efficient and Cleaner Production (RECP) Demonstration Project in Georgia. The training brought together more than 40 Georgian experts working in the dairy and chemicals manufacturing sectors, the representatives of the business companies, the professors and students of the Georgian Technical University. International Expert Mr. Johannes Fresner conducted the Training from Minsk (Belarusian State University). Participants from Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Ukraine and Moldova will also take part in the Training. Participation in the training was also possible on-line and several Georgian experts used this opportunity.



Pocket guides for the dairy and chemical industries were presented to participants during the training. The first part of the training covered resource efficient and cleaner production in dairy industry processes, generation of waste, emissions and water discharge.

Such best practices as optimization of water utilization, minimization of water discharges and energy efficiency were closely discussed. The second part of the training was devoted to the chemicals manufacturing sector and covered the following issues: responsible production and chemicals handling, resource efficient and cleaner production in chemical industry; hierarchical approach for risk reduction; best industrial practices and technologies in chemical industry. At the end of the training the participants were given opportunity to ask questions.

### RECENT PUBLICATIONS

The Pocket Guides for Dairy and Construction Materials Manufacturing Sectors have been translated into Georgian and will be published soon. The pocket guides provide detailed description of resource efficient and cleaner production principles applicable for the dairy and construction materials industries.

The Pocket Guides will help industry specialists to identify and implement resource efficiency opportunities through self-diagnosis and assessment checklists, and thereby achieve costs savings and lower environmental impacts. The pocket guides contain information on potential resource productivity challenges and subsequent solutions for saving costs and improve resource efficiencies in the sectors as well as information, modern technology solutions, useful contacts on technology suppliers, and reading material references to support the identification, development and implementation of resource efficient and cleaner production projects in the sector.



Further information is available at:

RECP project website: [www.recp.ge](http://www.recp.ge)

EaP GREEN program website: [www.green-economies-eap.org](http://www.green-economies-eap.org)